

"We will look at what high priority warfighter requirements are out there and look for matches with what SPAWAR Systems Center Charleston is working on. We've just started to scratch the surface here but already have a few quick wins."

- Tom Gwiazdowski

on as many of their experimental efforts as our initiatives can enter."

While some project managers may be reluctant to expose developing technologies to experimentation and feedback, Gwiazdowski thinks that early experimentation and warfighter valuation are essential.

"I'd rather get news in the first 12 months of my work that can help focus my efforts than in the last 12 months — or even worse — when the final capability is delivered to the warfighter."

Inserting the initiative into the proper environment at the right time is critical to the process. The OX will capitalize on the service, joint, interagency and multinational transformation and experimentation efforts in Tidewater Virginia.

The OX will perform an initial analysis and determine the experimentation venue or exercise that would provide the best focus and scenario for warfighter feedback and military utility assessment.

For example, an initiative may have greater utility in a joint and multinational environment with involvement of other U.S. government agencies as well as humanitarian and nongovernmental organizations. If so, the OX will work to have the initiative inserted into an experiment, such as the multinational experimentation series conducted by J9. If an initiative has a multinational maritime focus, the OX will find an exercise that focuses on multinational maritime warfighting.

Initiatives can also be entered into the NATO Concept Development and Experimentation program, a collaborative effort among the NATO and Partnership for Peace nations, to share information and experiment results within the alliance.

"We will look at what high priority warfighter requirements are out there and look for matches with what SPAWAR Systems Center Charleston is working on. We've just started to scratch the surface here but already have a few quick wins, Gwiazdowski said.

"We're starting to look at Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations (ACTDs) and Joint Capability Technology Demonstrations (JCTDs), review them

and determine if there are matches between those warfighter requirements and the ongoing efforts of SPAWAR Systems Center Charleston."

The OX is set to have initial operational capability in the second quarter of fiscal year 2007 with full operational capability slated for the first quarter of fiscal year 2008. But the OX has already had some successes. Gwiazdowski and Mieczkowski recently matched an SSC Charleston project with a new Joint Capability Technology Demonstration which will potentially fulfill half of the JCTD objectives much earlier in the process than originally thought possible.

They also submitted several SSC Charleston projects into USJFCOM's Multinational Experiment 5 as well as Combined Endeavor 2007, a multinational security and communications exercise sponsored by U.S. European Command and NATO. Finally, they have taken a few real gems and shown them to a couple of combatant commanders who expressed a very strong interest in them.

Linking projects directly to warfighting requirements will result in a huge payoff for the warfighter — and that is really what it's all about.

Tom Gwiazdowski is the chief of experimentation and holds the technical warrant for experimentation for SSC Charleston. He is a retired U.S. Army officer with extensive experience in operational infantry units as well as joint and multinational commands. He was one of the founding fathers of the NATO Concept Development and Experimentation program and has served as an operational manager for an ACTD.

Sandy Mieczkowski works in the Office of eXperimentation. She was previously the manager of the SSC Charleston Tidewater Node of the FORCEnet Composeable Environment (FnCE) and one of its original architects. She has supported Naval Network Warfare Command and its Sea Trial events including Trident Warrior and the Navy's participation in Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment in the FnCE Node.

CHIPS

Department of the Navy Information Technology Umbrella Program Update

The Department of the Navy (DON) Information Management and Information Technology Conference is a great opportunity to meet representatives from the DON IT Umbrella Program of contracts and other acquisition professionals across the DON and Department of Defense.

The IM and IT Conference to be held January 30 through February 2 at the San Diego Convention Center, is hosted by the DON Chief Information Officer (CIO) and features knowledgeable speakers from a wide variety of topics, including commercial software acquisition and services through the DON IT Umbrella Program, DoD Enterprise Software Initiative (ESI) and SmartBUY.

Mr. Jim Clausen, from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration and Chief Information Officer, the ESI chair; Mr. Floyd Groce, DON representative and ESI co-chair; and Mr. Tom Kireills, from the General Services Administration, will conduct a session regarding the SmartBUY program and enterprise licensing for commercial software, Wednesday, January 31 at 11:10 a.m.

Ms. Linda Greenwade, DON IT Umbrella Program manager, will conduct a DON IT Umbrella Program update, Thursday, February 1 at 10:45 a.m.

The DON IM and IT Conference is open to all DON government, military and support contractor attendees. No conference fee will be assessed, but registration is required.

The agenda and registration are available on the DON CIO Web site at <http://www.doncio.navy.mil>.

For additional information call (703) 607-3435 or (703) 602-6274.

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